GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:381
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
NON-TARIFF BARRIERS BY E.U.
BRAHMANAND MANDAL;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the European Union has put various types of non-tariff barriers on the Indian products;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; (

(c) whether the European Union is not giving priority to India in this matter as compared to the African, Carribean and Pacific countries; (

(d) if so, the details alongwith the reasons therefor; (

(e) the extent to which India`s export to EU market has been affected / likely to be affected as a result thereof; (

(f) whether the Government have taken up the issue with the EU or WTO ; and

(g) if so, the response of EU / WTO in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO: 381 FOR ANSWER IN ON 9TH AUGUST 2002 REGARDING NON - TARIFF BARRIERS BY E.U.

(a) to (b) : Some Indian products, especially in the sectors of agriculture and marine products face certain Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in European Union (EU) market.These NTBs are in the form of health, SPS/TBT requirements, higher standards and labeling requirements including their non harmonisation within EU member countries, quotas etc.

(c) to (d) EU is granting non reciprocal trade preferences to 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement of June 2000. This initiative, aimed at economic partnership with LDC countries, provides for additional market access in EU in terms of tariff/quota.

(e) India`s exports to EU constitute about 20-25% of our global exports. Various factors, including the Non Tariff Barriers by EU, come into play in determining the growth in exports. Such special trading arrangements of EU would have an adverse effect of trade diversion for some products having commonality of interest with ACP/LDC countries.

(f) to (g) The India-EU trade issues, including EU`s Non Tariff Barriers are addressed with the EU side in various bilateral interactions including in bilateral Joint Commission/Sub Commission meetings and in the concerned bilateral Working Groups.These issues are also highlighted at the appropriate WTO forum, the last one being the Trade Policy Review of the European Union conducted by WTO on 24-26, July 2002.